REIMEI NO HANA

KUJOU TOMOYODO A.K.A. INARIYA FUSANOSUKE

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER NAME:
THE SLEEPING SEAL

TRANSLATOR:
YUSIDI

SCANLATOR:
VEJA24

RAWS/EDITOR:
AIKA THOMPSON

...becomes engraved into one's soul like an eternal seal

THAT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
IS SUIKE!-DONO DOING WELL?
HOW COULD YOU MISS KAMO'S RECKLESS ACTIONS?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I COULDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE OF THAT.
HMPH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE.
WHAT'S NEXT?
WANT ME TO OFF SOMEONE?
FINE WITH ME
DAMN BARBARIAN.

BUT IT IS MORE EFFICIENT, I SUPPOSE
THAT'S WHY WE USE YOU, ASHIYA DOUMAN.
眠れる幻印
THE SLEEPING SEAL
KAMO RESI-DENCE
FATHER-

WHAT'S WRONG?
I PICKED UP THIS KITTEN YESTER-DAY...
HE DOESN'T LOOK SO WELL
HE STOPPED EATING TOO...
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF HIM
IF THIS KEEPS UP HE'LL DIE...
PLACE THIS CHARM ON HIS BED
FUSSING OVER HIM TOO MUCH WILL ONLY WEAKEN HIM INSTEAD
AND LAY HIM GENTLY DOWN TO REST THERE...
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED, BUT IF YOU'RE PATIENT AND WAIT HE'LL EVENTUALLY WAKE UP.
JEEZ...

DAMN...
I ENDED UP REMEMBERING SOMETHING UNPLEASANT
TAP
LEAVE IT TO THAT JERK TO ALWAYS BE RAISING ONE LITTLE MONSTER OR ANOTHER
WHOOSH
SHUKAN SHIKIGAMI
JIKEI SHUKAN*

AND NOW YOU'VE SENT HIM ON ANOTHER CRUEL, HERETICAL ASSIGNMENT, HAVEN'T YOU?
AS FOR THAT,
WELL, THAT *GEHOUSHI* IS ON AN ASSIGNMENT SOMEWHERE
THAT INCIDENT IN THE CAPITAL, WAS THAT NOT YOUR DOING?
...YES?
WHAT DID YOU ORDER DOUMAN TO DO?
IF THE USE WE MAKE OF EACH OTHER IS MUTUAL, THEN IT'S FINE
THE ONE WHO DOES WHATEVER WE TELL HIM TO IS THAT MAN, AFTER ALL.
BUT KEEPING OUTRIGHT CONTACT WITH SOMEONE OF LOW BIRTH LIKE THAT IS SOMETHING YOU SIMPLY *CANNOT* DO
ALSO...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU BEFORE,

YOU ARE A DESCENDENT OF THE EMPEROR
THE CROWN PRINCE'S LIVING KATASHIRO"
NEVER FORGET YOUR DUTY.
"KATASHIRO: A PAPER DOLL USED TO REPRESENT AND TAKE THE PLACE OF THE USER
RATTLE

WHAT IS THE MATTER, SEIMEI-SAMA?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE KAMO RESIDENCE.
SOME-THING HAS HAPPENED TO YASUNORI-DONO!
THUMP
DON'T TOUCH ME WITH THAT, GEHOUSHI!
HM?
OH, YOU'RE ONE OF THEM PRACTITIONERS SO YOU WOULD SENSE IT...
THIS CURSED TATTOO
ISN'T THAT TATTOO A BLACK ART THAT CURSES IT'S OWN USER?
CONVE-NIENT, RIGHT?
THIS WAY I DON'T NEED CHARMS OR INCANTATIONS
SQUEEZE

AND IT'S FASTER THAN YOUR SPELL GESTURES
PUNCH!
GRAB
!!
AH!
YASUNORI-DONO WAS KIDNAPPED!?
HOW COULD YOU LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!?
WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY. A RED-HAIRED MAN SUDDENLY BROKE IN..
THAT GUY!
HE WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE GUARDS TO HANDLE
I KNOW THEY WENT TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS IN THE EAST, BUT
Sigh
THAT'S YASUNORI-DONO'S HAT, RIGHT?
YES
GIVE THAT TO ME

"THE HAT THAT CROWNS THE HEAD
ACQUAINTED WITH THE HAIR IT HOLDS WITHIN."
WITH THIS, FOLLOW...
TOO EASY
SWOOSH
RUSH!
BAM
SEIMEI-DONO!?
THUD
CUT

Wait so you can still talk, eh?
HOW DOES HE KNOW?
H.
HOW...?
THAT NOSE OF HIS...
THAT DAMN ONMYOUJI GOT A WHIFF OF ME
...UGH
THE LINK WAS CUT..!
LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN CAUGHT
I
...HUH
RUSH
YOU!

YOU USED A HUMAN SHAPED KATASHIRO!?
YEAH.
IT'S EASY TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN TO THAT...
A LIVING PERSON...!?
THUD
RATTLE
SEE YA
SNAP
A STUBBORN ONE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE...
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.

NO... NOT AT ALL
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU FOR RUSHING ALL THIS WAY
RUSTLE
EH...
SLIP
IT WAS RUDE OF ME TO JUST BARGE IN...
BURNS? NO...TATTOOS!?
FOR THE EMPEROR AND IMPERIAL COURT TO BE FACING FUJIWARA'S TYRANNY, THIS IS INTOLERABLE.

THE NEXT EMPEROR IS USUALLY THE CROWN PRINCE. IF WE COULD GET A HELPING HAND...
MOREOVER, USING THE EMPEROR'S ONMYOUJI
I...
YES...?
YOU CAN SAY I AM THE CROWN PRINCE'S KATASHIRO
IT'S JUST...
THIS BODY'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT
THE CROWN PRINCE, WHO IS DEFENSE-LESS AGAINST CURSES
THAT IS THE SOLE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE.
TO MAINTAIN THIS SPELL, NO ONE CAN TOUCH ME.
AND I CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE.

WE AREN'T DOING ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH THE CROWN PRINCE
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO TO PROTECT HIM
HOW PATHETIC.
NO
EVEN IF YOU AREN'T
FOR ALL I KNOW, SEIMEI MIGHT BE
WAIT!
NO.
I SWEAR ON THE KAMO NAME, SEIMEI AND I ARE NOT INVOLVED
AND LET OTHERS MAKE THEIR SACRIFICES SO THEY CAN
ONE CAN'T BE... AN IDEALIST FOREVER
TAP
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE YOU BUT...
PULL
HAVE IT EASY
CLATTER
PEOPLE TURN ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT A THOUGHT
PEOPLE CHANGE

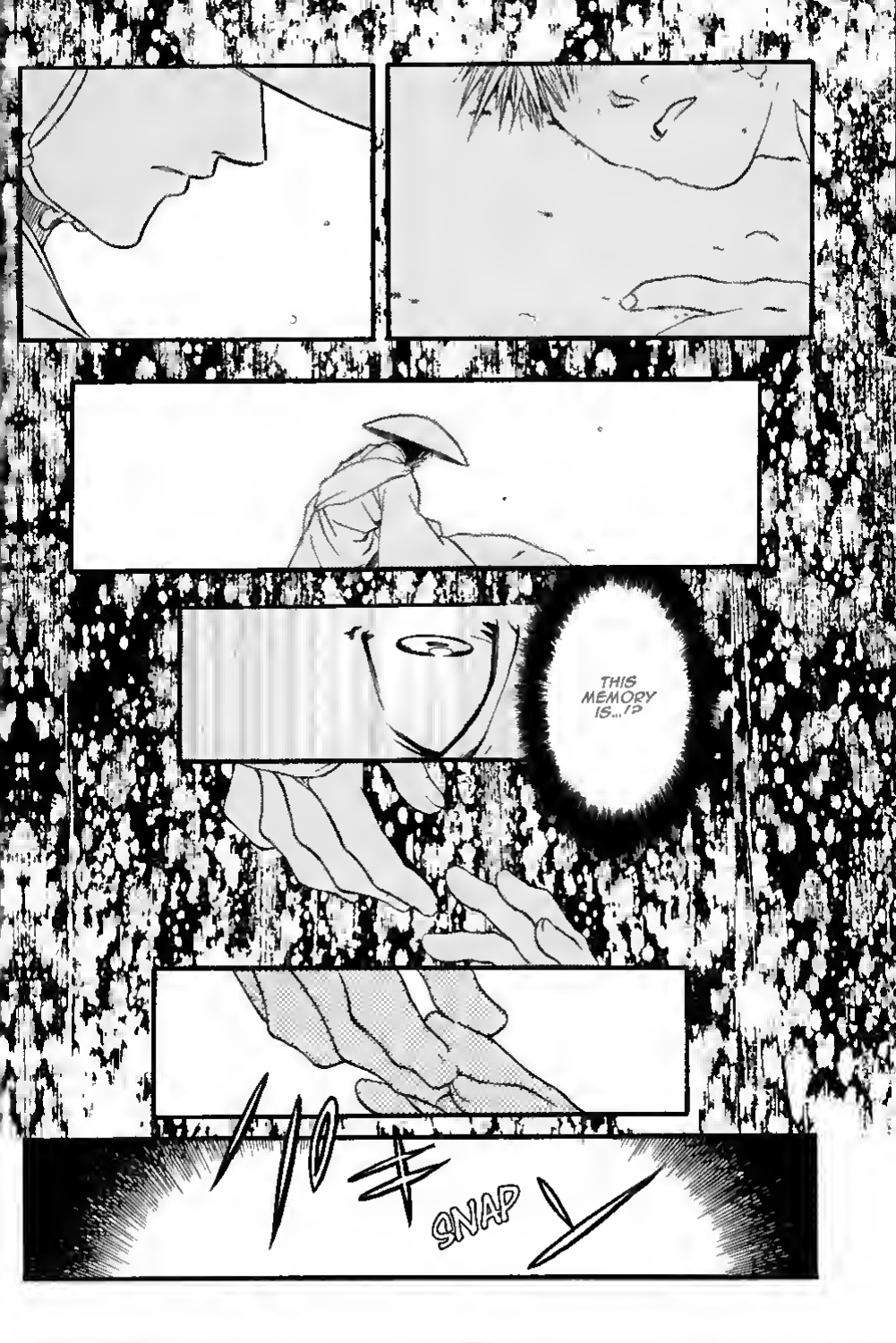
ZAA
MY JOB ALONE IS PROOF OF THAT
THE TATTOO IS...!?
YOU'RE THE ONE ATTACKING THE FUJIWARA
YOU ONMYOUJI ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THEM, RIGHT?
GRAB
SEIMEI
ISN'T THAT STUPID!
HOW IS HE GOING TO REACT.
AS HE JUST LETS YOU KILL HIM INSTEAD?
WHAT WILL SEIMEI DO, I WONDER?
IF I MAKE YOU MY PUPPET,

YOU MAKE ME SICK...
I THOUGHT I MIGHT GO EASY ON YOU BECAUSE YOUREMIND ME A LITTLE OF A GUY I USED TO KNOW, BUT-
NEVER-MIND.
PUNCH
BO
!?
RUSH
HOWL
KEMONO!?"
JUST THE USUAL TYPE...
PICKED UP AND CARED FOR ON A WHIM
THEN ABANDONED TO DIE A MISERABLE DEATH-
THAT KIND OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS ALL I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH TOO
"KEMONO" LITERALLY MEANS "BEAST" BUT IS REFERRING TO SOMETHING MORE THAN A MERE ANIMAL, LIKE SOMETHING SPIRITUAL OR DEMONIC

IT'S AN ANIMALS INSTINCT,
THE RULE OF YOUR BODY-
YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* HOW MUCH IT HURTS TO YEARN FOR YOUR MASTER
OBEY THAT PERSON.
BE CONTROLLED BY HIM.
KEEP HIM ALIVE,
SAVE HIM,
GIVE *EVERY-THING* FOR HIS SAKE
HIS ORDERS,
HIS WISHES,
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GRANT THEM, SELL ALL OF YOURSELF FOR THAT
YOUR FIN-GERS,
YOUR VOICE,
YOUR FLESH,
YOUR SOUL,
EVERYTHING *CHOKES* INSIDE YOU-
AND YOU CAN'T DRAW BREATH.
THE CRIES OF YOUR INSTINCTS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE

IT'S UNBEAR-ABLE ..
AND YET IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITHOUT *THAT PERSON.*
THAT IS THE *MARK** OF AN ANIMAL
WITH ONLY THE MEMORY OF A MOMENT OF KINDNESS,
YOU WAIT OUT AN *ETERNITY* OF HUNGER
LITERALLY SAYS "SEAL
NOT LAUGHING NOW, ARE YOU?
THE HEIR TO THE KAMO'S
BEING SERVED BY THAT MONSTER LIKE A *SPOILED BRAT.*

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
SHOVE
NOW YOU TRY STARVING FOR SOMEONE SO MUCH YOU WANT TO DIE TOO.
YASUNORI-DONO!


THIS MEMORY IS...!?
SNAP

YOU'RE LEAVING ME!?
DON'T LEAVE!
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
I GUESS YOU SAW THAT...
PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE...

BOOM
RUMBLE
A COUNTER-CURRENT!?
SLURP
WHOOSH
!!
HOW TERRIBLY RUDE OF ME

THANKS TO YOU, IT TOOK ME QUITE SOME TIME TO ARRIVE
!!
FWISH!
SUKUNE!
ROAR
GRAB
THE INUGAMI!?
SQUEEZE

...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I COULD JUST FOLLOW YOUR SOUL ALL THE WAY TO THE UNDERWORLD,
SEI...
SEIMEI?
SQUEEZE
YOU DAMN FREAK
BUT THIS FORM IS BETTER FOR FOLLOWING
BOTH YOUR SOUL AND A BEAST'S AT THE SAME TIME
I MAY NOT HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY RIGHT NOW,
BUT I WON'T HAVE TROUBLE DEFEATING YOU ANYWAYS.
I DON'T LIKE TO ADMIT TO IT, BUT YOU AND I ARE TWO OF A KIND

ROAR
TCH!
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO, HUH?
THE PRICE FOR HARMING YASUNORI-DONO IS *VERY HIGH*, YOU KNOW
SUI!
DOUMAN-HOUSHI*
IS SO KIND TO ALL US PAGES

*HOUSHI IS TITLE FOR ORDAINED MONK

HE WOULD ASK "NOTHING'S CHANGED WITH *SUIKEI-DONO*, RIGHT?"
ANO..
ANO HE ALWAYS SMILES CHEERFULLY
EVEN THOUGH WHENEVER HE COMES BACK HE IS ALWAYS COVERED IN WOUNDS

GRIP
FLING
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SUIKEI-DONO!?
WHY WON'T THEY ALLOW HIM TO ENTER THE PRIEST-HOOD?
WHY DO THEY JUST KEEP HAVING HIM DO LESSER WORK AS A GEHOUSH!?
YASU-NORI-DONO!?
SHOVE
ENOUGH, SEIME!
WHAT I SAW BACK THERE WAS YOU, RIGHT?
SORRY BUT I DON'T PLAN ON OWING YOU ANY FAVORS
KE TAKING PITY ON ME NOW?

twitch
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND WITH THAT PRISSY FACE OF YOURS, ASSHOLE.
SHUT UP!
THAT WAS...
SOME OF YOUR MEMORIES FLOWED INTO ME-
I'LL OVERLOOK OUR CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CROWN PRINCE THIS TIME.
GO BACK AND PROTECT YOUR MASTER.
TCH
IF I COULD DO THAT
I WOULDN'T BE A GEHOUSHI.

LOOKING AT THE TWO OF YOU IS MAKING ME SICK.
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU CARE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WANT TO PROTECT HIM. I WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT HIM.
OF COURSE I WANT TO STAY BY HIS SIDE. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
ANYBODY WOULD BE DISGUSTED WITH THAT KIND OF OPTIMISM

IN ANY CASE, I REALLY NEED A MATCH.
EACH ONE IS GOING TO BE A FRUITLESS BATTLE, THOUGH
SHUT UP.
SINCE I'M KOUYA'S DOG
ONCE ORDERED I'LL BE AFTER YOU MANY MORE TIMES
NEXT TIME I'LL CRUSH YOU!
WHOOSH
IS LETTING HIM GO REALLY A GOOD IDEA?
IT'LL BE FINE
LIKE HE SAID, EVEN IF YOU HAD DEFEATED HIM IT WOULDN'T END THIS CONFLICT.
BE-SIDES..
?
BESIDES WHAT?
NOTH-ING.

THAT READ-HEADED BOY
who over-lapped with the memory
of me holding my hand out to Seimei
looked so happy back then.
IS THERE NOTH-ING WE CAN DO
HOW SAD...
TO FREE HIM OF HIS CURSE...?
YOU'RE A KIND MAN, YASUNORI-DONO.

SEIMEI...
AS FOR HIS YEARNINGS
STEP
HE CERTAINLY CAN'T RESIST THE CALL OF HIS INSTINCT. BUT...
RUSTLE
HAVING THE BLOOD OF AN ANIMAL DOESN'T MAKE YOU STUPID.
HE'LL BE ALRIGHT

THUNK
CALL FORTH AND
DRIVE THAT INSTINCT
BECAUSE THAT PERSON
HAS THE RIGHT SPIRIT.
[THE SLEEPING SEAL - END]

- Translation Notes -

The use of the word "Seal"

The kanji used refers to "engraved/carved seal" and is used to represent a permanent mark. This "seal" most evidently refers to Douman's cursed seal tattooed on his arm on the surface. Foil ——— that is the symbolic meaning behind that cursed seal, primarily representing Douman's memory of his relationship with Suikei and his inner struggles with Suikei's abandonment and chasing after him.

Katashiro

A paper doll used for purification rites usually used to represent and take the place of the user. In this context, Sui is a living vessel to theoretically take any misfortune that may befall the Crown Prince in his stead.

Gehoushi

There are quite a few definitions attached to this term and Douman can qualify for all of them. Meanings include:

1) A priest from outside one's own religion;
2) A practicioner of black magic;
3) In pg 69, Jikei is most likely using it to signify Douman's status as an outsider to their organization, at least in his view.

Questions, concerns, moral or religious outrage?
You can find me at yugiri315.livejournal.com